

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 11 and 12 have been amended. Claim 9 has been canceled. Thus, claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8 and 10-12 are presented for examination. Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found in canceled claim 9. The amendment to claim 2 removes the bracket after "Film thickness(2)." Support for the amendment to claim 11 may be found in previous claim 1. The amendment to claim 12 is to remove its dependency from canceled claim 9. Thus, no new matter has been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections in view of the amendments and the comments presented herein are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. (US 6,576,392), and Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Irie (US 6,855,485 or US 6,966,710).

Claim 1 as amended incorporates the subject matter of claim 9, which the Examiner stated was allowable over the cited references. On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner agreed that the cited references fail to teach or suggest a composition consisting of the monomers now recited in all of the pending claims. Specifically, claim 1 as amended recites a resin component (A-1) which comprises a copolymer selected from the group consisting of (i) a copolymer which comprises structural units (a1) and (a3); and (ii) a copolymer which comprises structural units (a1) and (a2) which is neither disclosed nor suggested by Sato et al. either alone, or in combination with Irie et al. Accordingly, claim 1, as well as well as claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 8 and 10-11, all of which depend either directly or indirectly on claim 1, should now be allowable.

For the record, Applicants wish to note that while the Examiner states that Sato et al. disclose a solvent including PGME, MMP, and methyl ethyl ketone, present claim 1 recites methyl amyl ketone, not methyl ethyl ketone.

In view of the amendments and comments presented above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

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CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. However, if minor matters remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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